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11 October 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Operations, OSA

SUBJECT: OSA Charter

1. Per your request, I have made some inquiries into the genealogy and future of OSA and its charter to perform certain reconnaissance functions.

2. It is not the purpose of this memorandum to give a complete history of the OSA operation or any of its projects. Rather it is a listing and description of the various documents that gave birth to present projects and organizations and programs for the future.

3. Attachment I is a copy of an agreement signed by General Nathan I. Twining, USAF, and Allen W. Dulles, CIA, dated 2 August 1955. This agreement spells out the organization and delineation of responsibilities for Project Oilstone (U-2). In point of time this is the earliest document I could find wherein the organization now known as OSA is mentioned and described. Paragraph 3.b. of this document places the responsibility for R&D, operational planning and command and control for overflight missions on Project Headquarters.

4. Attachment II is a copy of a similar agreement signed by Gen. Thomas D. White, USAF, and Allen W. Dulles, CIA, dated 14 October 1960, giving birth to Project OXCART (A-12). Paragraph 3.b. of this document places upon Project Headquarters the responsibility for continued R&D, operational planning and command and control of overflight missions.

5. In May of 1962 an agreement was reached (Attachment III) by John A. McCone, CIA, and Roswell C. Gilpatric, DOD, which led to the founding of the National Reconnaissance Office (Attachment IV). Under paragraph 2.a. (1) of the May 1962

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agreement, all present and future covert reconnaissance programs would be under the technical management of NRO and the executive management of the CIA.

6. We are operating today under the basic authorities mentioned above. Our future planning is based on the planning goals outlined in Annex A of the CIA publication, "Planning Assumptions, Goals and Objectives" dated January 1966 (DDS&T #528-66, Attachment V). We respond to the requirements of these formally stated objectives by submission of annual concepts of operations for both projects. These concepts are formed within the intelligence requirements stated on page 11 of the planning document and the requirements delineated by the Director of Central Intelligence in the DCID Priority National Intelligence Objectives, Quarterly Supplement (Attachment VI). These operational concepts likewise are the basis for our annual budget.

7. The future operation of OSA until 1972 is depicted in the OSA answer [redacted] dated 22 March 1966, to the Combined Program Call of the CIA. This five year plan is based on:

- a. CIA Planning Assumptions, Goals and Objectives.
- b. Priority National Intelligence Objectives.

8. A reorganization of OSA was approved by the Deputy Director for Science and Technology in August 1966. This reorganization with all its functions and responsibilities is spelled out in a document recently circulated throughout OSA. Conversation with Mr. Edward Duckett and [redacted] indicates that this document will receive the formal approval of the DDS&T since that office has already approved the reorganization chart.

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[redacted]

Lt. Colonel, USAF  
Chief, Special Actions Staff, O/OSA

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